

OCT 04 2001

MIKE HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Harrington.

2 My name is Mike Henderson. I'm here as a
3 representative of Congressman Jim Gibbons. I'm the
4 district press liaison and a field representative.

5 Mr. Gibbons' comments were directed to the
6 Secretary of the Department of Energy.

7 "I appreciate the opportunity to join my
8 fellow Nevadans in opposing the
9 Department of Energy's plan to ship and
10 store the nation's high-level nuclear
11 waste in Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The
12 fate of this project is critical not only
13 to Nevadans, but to all Americans.

14 "For nearly 50 years since the Atomic
15 Energy Commission first took up the issue
16 of nuclear waste disposal in 1956, the
17 federal government has taken on the
18 immense task of finding a viable solution
19 for eliminating our nation's growing
20 stock of radioactive waste.

21 "I have personally toured the world's
22 most sensitive nuclear laboratories.

23 Every day it seems something new and

24 profound comes out of the research and
25 development taking place in these
13
1 laboratories, yet I am baffled that after
2 spending a half century and billions of
3 tax dollars, your department is on the
4 eve of deciding that the best remedy is
5 to dig a hole and bury this problem.
6 "I hold a law degree and a master's
7 degree in geology. I have argued the
8 faults of this project as a lawyer, as a
9 geologist, as a Nevadan and as a
10 representative of Nevada in Congress. I
11 have joined with our United States
12 Senators and my colleague in the House
13 from Nevada's First District in opposing
14 the recommendation of Yucca Mountain as a
15 permanent repository.
16 "Our state Legislature and local
17 governments have been unified in their
18 absolute opposition and still the DOE
19 continues to dig."
20 I'm going to skip down to the bottom of the

21 Congressman's remarks. His entire text is available to
22 you, and I've requested it be made a part of the record.

23 "Mr. Secretary, Nevada's governor, Nevada's
24 delegation in Congress, Nevada's state
25 Legislature, our current and future

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1 generations along with former high-level
2 DOE staff implore you to reconsider Yucca
3 Mountain as a burial site. America's
4 future depends on sound science, not
5 convenient politics. Thank you.
6 Congressman Jim Gibbons."